

B1 Chapter 1 Glossary

Key word	Definition
adaptations (cell)	The structure and features of a cell that make it suited to carrying out a particular job.
amoeba	A unicellular organism.
binary fission	When a unicellular organism splits itself into two identical cells.
cell	The smallest functional unit in an organism – the building block of life.
cell membrane	The cell component that controls which substances can move into and out of the cell.
cell wall	The plant cell component that surrounds the cell, providing support.
chloroplast	The plant cell component where photosynthesis takes place.
concentration	A measure of the number of particles of a substance in a given volume.
cytoplasm	A 'jelly-like' substance found in cells, where all the chemical reactions take place.
diffusion	The movement of liquid or gas particles from a place of high concentration to a place of low concentration.
egg cell	A cell containing female genetic material.
euglena	Unicellular organism that performs photosynthesis.
flagellum	A tail-like structure that allows euglenas to move.
leaf cell	The plant cells that contain chloroplasts, where photosynthesis takes place.
microscope	An optical instrument used to magnify objects, so small details can be seen clearly.
mitochondria	The cell component where respiration takes place.
nerve cell	An animal cell that transmits electrical impulses around the body.
nucleus	The cell component that controls the cell and contains genetic material.
observation	Carefully looking at an object or process.
organism	A living thing.

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red blood cell	An animal cell that transports oxygen around the body.
respiration	A chemical reaction where food and oxygen are converted into energy, water, and carbon dioxide.
root hair cell	A plant cell that takes in water and minerals from the soil.
specialised cell	A cell whose shape and structure enable it to perform a particular function.
sperm cell	A cell containing male genetic material.
unicellular	Consisting of just one cell.
vacuole	The plant cell component that contains cell sap and helps to keep the cell firm.